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STOCKTON-ON-TEES CORPORATION

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE
YEAR 1943.

JOHN LANDON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health ;
Medical Superintendent of Isolation Hospital ;
School Medical Officer.

COATES, HUNTER LTD., STOCKTON.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1943.

To the Town Council of the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees.

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1943 which, while largely statistical and in its customary abridged form, may be considered to give a reasonably accurate account of the health of the Borough and of the work undertaken by your Health Department.

Once again it may be said that, generally speaking, the health of the townspeople has been maintained at a high level. Such obstinate good health in the face of the stresses and strains of the war may be variously attributed, but it is not unreasonable to seek to correlate it with the high level of employment and wage earning capacity at the present time and a planned and equitable food policy avoiding want and deprivation on the one hand and excess and over-indulgence on the other. Perhaps, a little credit may also be allowed to the preventive and curative health services and to a public opinion which, slowly but surely, is beginning to discern the major hazards to health and efficiency.

The vital statistics of a small population like ours, must be viewed over a fairly long period of time if any broad generalisations are to be made or any definite trends noted. This enables us to avoid undue elation when statistics are good or undue pessimism when they appear to be bad. For instance, the Birth Rate for 1943 at 19.9 per 1,000 total births shows only a minor variation from earlier wartime years and has remained practically unchanged in Stockton since 1931, when the rate was 19.92. When we remember, however, that the Birth Rate in 1900 was 34.7 per 1,000 and that there has been a progressive decline to the present day, it will be seen that the increased marriages and births during the war have only tended to mask, however slightly, the continued tendency to decline in the population. This low birth rate following a high birth rate, coupled with the greater expectation of life now enjoyed, has altered the age constitution of our population both nationally and locally so that we are becoming more and more a middle-aged and elderly people. Unless this decline can be halted, or even better, reversed, the threat of depopulation of our towns and cities within the next half century constitutes a menace of the first order to our national survival.

The Infantile Mortality Rate at 67 per 1,000 during 1943 shews an increase of 2 per 1,000 over 1942. In 1901, however, the rate for Stockton-on-Tees was 190 per 1,000 and this has steadily improved reaching a low water mark in 1936 when the rate fell to 47. The following year it rose to 71 and fell again in 1938 to 52. The rise in 1943, therefore, makes it no less certain that the downward trend is continuing and that this process can be hastened by still further improvement in environmental conditions, in antenatal care and in care during child birth and the weeks that follow it. It will be seen from the table on page 22 that prematurity was responsible during 1943 for 24 out of the 87 deaths of infants under one year of age. This fact is intimately bound up with the nutrition and care of the expectant mother.

The Maternal Mortality Rate which, in 1942, was 1.58 per 1,000 total births and represented the lowest rate ever recorded in the Borough, rose in 1943 to 3.78 per 1,000. Seen in its true perspective this means that there were 5 maternal deaths out of 1320 mothers who were confined. It will be seen that 1 additional maternal death would have an appreciable effect on the rate where such a small number of births is concerned. We must, however, strive to provide better and better midwifery services, on which the problem of maternal mortality ultimately depends.

During 1943 a Health Week was held which fully justified the time and energy consumed in its organisation. Details are given on another page. Health education is becoming more and more one of the major preoccupations of a Health department and there is no doubt that the inculcation of sound habits of hygiene and a knowledge of the causes of health and disease as early as possible in the life of the individual, is an important factor in the well-being of the people. Health education should be an integral part of the school curriculum and steps are being taken, noted elsewhere in this report, to help in achieving this end in the Borough.

During 1943 a Sunlight Clinic was provided in the Borough and has since proved a valuable amenity to the children of the district.

I trust you will forgive me if I devote the remainder of my note to the future health prospects of the Borough, so far as they can be foreseen. With the approaching end (we hope) of the war many problems loom ahead. The housing of the people with which such good progress was being made prior to the war has suffered a severe setback as a result of the discontinuance of the building programme. The deterioration in existing houses has been accelerated by the curtailing of repair work under Section 9 of the Housing Act as a result of the shortage of labour and materials, although this has been

to some extent offset by work done under Section 92 of the Public Health Act and under the recent Ministry of Health Circular 2871 dealing with a General Scheme for the Repair of Houses. The relief of overcrowding following the 1936-37 survey has, by now, been largely nullified as a result of increased size of families and by the fact that, owing to shortage of houses and furniture, young married couples have had to make their homes with parents. The Council are only too well aware of the importance of this matter, and are planning accordingly.

Another major problem is the need for a concerted attack upon the evil of recurrent mass unemployment. It may be said that this is a socio-political and not a health issue, and, therefore, outside the province of a health officer. There is, however, such a close connection between lowered purchasing power and nutrition and consequently with health as to justify what may at first sight appear as a purposeless digression. It is a matter of vital health import that there should be no recurrence after the war of the mass unemployment which culminated in the Borough in 1932 when approximately 45% of the insured male population of the town were unemployed. It is sincerely to be hoped that the proposals made in the Government White Paper on Employment Policy, particularly in regard to the balanced distribution of industry, will bear fruit and that a high and stable level of employment will be maintained.

There is also to be considered the future development of the health services. The first medical officers of health were concerned chiefly with problems of environment such as sanitation, housing, supervision of food supplies and the control of infectious disease. In the early part of the present century there was a reorientation of public health outlook and the evolution of the personal health services of which the Maternity and Child Welfare Service, the School Medical Service and the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis are good examples. We are now on the eve of further great changes; of the birth, or more accurately, the re-birth of what is known as Social Medicine. We have in past centuries amassed a vast corpus of knowledge of sickness, but we know comparatively little about health as a positive state. Social Medicine takes the family, not the individual, as the unit, for it is realised that illness is seldom limited to the sick person but has dire implications for the members of the family as a whole. The patient can, therefore, no longer be regarded merely as a person suffering from a disease but as an individual with personal aspirations and responsibilities, with a family to maintain and a job to hold down. Social medicine seeks the roots of ill-health whether in the home or in the factory and as poverty and insecurity are among the greatest causes of

ill health, medical and health services reveal themselves as but one link in the chain of social security generally. To quote Dr. McGonigle in his Annual Report for 1932, "We are passing from mere environmental details to an appreciation of the science of living which is an advance beyond the mere correction of faults in bricks and mortar."

The reorganisation of the health services is another of the great post war problems. It is difficult, at the present time, to foresee the form they will ultimately take or upon whom the responsibility will fall. There can be no doubt that further vast progress can be realised if the same degree of energy is brought to the problems of peace as ~~have~~ ^{has} characterised the prosecution of the war.

Finally, I wish to place on record my appreciation of the unstinted help and co-operation I have received during the year from all members of the Health Department and from the Chairman and Members of the Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN LANDON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
11 Finkle Street,
Stockton-on-Tees.

31st July, 1944.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

The civil population of the Borough as estimated by the Registrar General at the middle of the year 1943 was 64,240.

Live Births :—

					1943	1942
Males	...	...	...	682		
Females	...	...	...	597		
				<hr/> 1279 <hr/>	Rate ... 19.90	19.00

Still-births :—

Number	41	Rate per 1,000 total births	31.60	22.15
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Deaths :—

Males	488		
Females	378		
				<hr/> 866 <hr/>	Rate ... 13.49	11.84

Infantile Mortality.

No. of deaths under one year	87	Rate per 1,000 live births	67	65
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Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

No. of deaths	5	Rate per 1,000 total births	3.78	1.58
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The birth rate for 1943 is slightly higher than that for the previous year. Similar increases have also occurred in the rates for England and Wales and for the 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns. The rate for the Borough has remained fairly constant since 1931.

The general death rate shows a rise of 1.65 per 1,000 on the rate for 1942. This also has occurred in the rates for the country as a whole and for the 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns.

The infantile mortality rate showed a slight rise from 65 to 67 per 1,000 live births. The rate for England and Wales remained the same as for 1942 at 49, while that for the 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns decreased from 59 to 58.

Notes on Causes of Death. The principal causes of death during the year with associated causes grouped together, compared with the corresponding figures for 1942, are as follows :—

	1943	1942
1. Heart and Circulatory diseases ...	189	186
2. Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other respiratory diseases ...	122	108
3. Cancer ...	102	93
4. Violence ...	48	38
5. Diseases of nervous system ...	71	65
6. Tuberculosis (all forms) ...	61	44
7. Congenital debility, premature birth, etc. ...	43	37
	<hr/> 636	<hr/> 571

Percentage of total deaths ...	73	75
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Taking into consideration the general rise of the death rate the slight increases recorded under most heads do not call for comment.

An exception is the number of deaths from Tuberculosis which show a substantial increase over the figure for 1942. Further information in regard to this disease will be found in a later section of the report.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water. The Borough is supplied with water by the Tees Valley Water Board. This supply has its source in upland gathering grounds near which it is impounded in extensive reservoirs. The supply is of good quality, is constant and abundant and has no plumbo-solvent action. No complaint of the water supply was received and no disease attributable to it was reported during the year.

Rivers and Streams. The crude sewage of the Borough is discharged into the River Tees without treatment.

Closet Accommodation. No house in the Borough within a reasonable distance of a sewer is now without a water closet.

Slaughterhouses. Only two of the 22 slaughterhouses in the Borough are now in use and are under the control of the Ministry of Food.

Offensive Trades. There was no alteration during the year in the number or nature of the offensive trades carried on in the Borough.

Common Lodging Houses. There is now only one common lodging house in the Borough providing accommodation for 33 men. This lodging house is well conducted and the accommodation provided is satisfactory.

Infestation Order, 1943. During the year 1943, the ground work was laid in accordance with the above Order for the work of rat disinfection which is now actively proceeding in the Borough.

General Scheme for the Repair of Houses. In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 2871, work was recommenced during the year under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, and good progress is being made in preventing further deterioration of the dwelling-houses in the Borough.

Sanitary Inspection of Area.

The following is a summary of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1943 :—

Investigations made in respect of notifiable disease ...	1014
Premises disinfected re infectious disease	345
„ „ „ tuberculosis	16
„ „ „ vermin	35
„ „ „ Scabies	30
Inspections following complaints	316
„ under the Housing, etc., Acts	97
„ under Public Health Acts	222
„ of Offensive Trades	71
„ „ Factories without mechanical power ...	10
„ „ Factories	35
„ „ Bakehouses	15
„ „ Cowsheds	95
„ „ Dairies and Milkshops	195
„ „ Stables and Pigstyes	65
„ „ Slaughter Houses	944
„ „ Markets and Shops	775
„ „ Common Lodging Houses	26
„ „ Fried Fish Shops	31
„ in regard to outstanding Notices ...	872
Miscellaneous Inspections	158
Samples taken for Analysis	69
„ „ „ Bacteriological Examination ...	78
Visits to Houses-Let-in-Lodgings	41
Hairdressers	7

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply. At the end of the year 1943 there were on the Register of Dairymen :—

Cowkeepers	23
Wholesale and Retail Dairymen	7
Retail purveyors of milk	49

Total names on Register	79
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The average total daily quantity of milk produced in and coming into the Borough is 4,196 gallons, of which 3,628 gallons are produced outside the Borough. Seven dairymen between them dispose of 3,316 gallons daily. The remainder of the town's milk supply is sold retail by farmers and smaller

retailers. Approximately 60% of the total supply of the Borough is pasteurised and all but 111 gallons of this which are sold wholesale in bulk, is bottled by machine.

The following summary shows how the milk produced in, or brought into the borough is handled :—

	Galls.
Milk produced in the Borough and retailed by producers	344 daily
Milk purchased and sold either wholesale or retail by the seven principal dairymen ...	3316 „
Milk purchased and sold by small retailers (excluding that supplied wholesale by the above dairymen)	189 „
Milk brought into the Borough by dairymen with rounds in the Borough	355 „
Sterilised Milk sold in the Borough	12 „

The milk supply of the Borough is drawn from at least 250 farms only 23 of which are within the Borough boundary and therefore under our direct supervision.

The ramifications of the milk industry are very wide and owing to bulking it is often a very difficult matter to trace the source of a bad sample, i.e. one containing tubercle bacilli. The supervision of the farms and dairies in the Borough takes up much of the time of the Sanitary Inspectors, and it is gratifying to see how much the existing staff have been able to accomplish.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk. 78 samples of milk were taken during the year and submitted to bacteriological examination, but six samples, five from producers and one of pasteurised are excluded owing to breakages and delay in transit to the laboratory.

The remainder of the samples were made up as follows :—

From producers in the Borough	50
From producers outside the Borough	1
Pasteurised	13
From dairymen	8
	<hr/> 72 <hr/>

Twenty-nine of the samples taken from producers had bacterial counts below 50,000 and in thirty-four cases *Bacillus Coli* was entirely absent.

Four samples of Pasteurised Milk had bacterial counts in excess of the standard laid down in the Regulations.

On the whole the results can be considered fairly satisfactory when the difficulties under which producers and dairymen are working, are taken into account.

Tubercle Bacilli in Milk. All the samples sent for examination are examined for tubercle bacilli. Three positive results were received during the year, two being samples taken from farms in the Borough and the third of the mixed milk from a retailer. An affected animal was traced and slaughtered in each case.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936. One Pasteuriser's Licence and three dealers licences, one to sell pasteurised milk and two to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk were granted during the year 1943.

Meat Inspection. The following table shows the number of animals killed and inspected in the two slaughterhouses operated by the Ministry of Food in the Borough :—

No. of Animals	No. killed	No. inspected	Percentage Inspected
Cattle ...	4,350	4,350	100%
Sheep ...	15,397	15,397	100%
Pigs ...	482	482	100%
Calves ...	1,465	1,465	100%
Total ...	21,694	21,694	100%

The following tables shows the meat condemned as unfit for food during the year :—

Carcase and organs of Beast	...	...	41
" " " " Sheep	...	...	6
" " " " Pig	...	...	2
Part Carcase and Organ of Beast	...	...	696
" " " " Sheep	...	...	77
" " " " Pig	...	...	12

Other Foods. The following is a list of various food-stuffs submitted for inspection during the year and condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

1,539 tins meat, 10 stone ground rice, 61 lb. jam, 107 tins casserole steak, 8 lb. fish paste, 452 tins beans, $27\frac{3}{4}$ dozen herrings, 79 packets gravy salt, 2 jars Beetox, 32 packets egg substitute, 133 lbs. tea, 10 lbs. sweets, 1 tin tongue, 2 jars beetroot, 6 jars mince, 131 tins salmon, 239 tins soup, 1,841 tins milk, 480 tins vegetables, 704 tins fruit, $839\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. prunes, 31 lbs. margarine, 120 stone cauliflowers, 7 lbs. toffee, 14 lbs. biscuits, $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. pigeon corn, 3 packets chappie, 2 tins chappie, 14 bottles sauce, 1 jar golden syrup, 7 stone flour, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sausage, $29\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. liver, 13 tins fish cake roll, 10 lbs. lard, 68 dozen leeks, 115 chips strawberries, 116 bunches radishes, 6 lb. peas, 2 Swiss rolls, 2 cartons sage and onion, 216 lbs. beef, 39 bags beans, $454\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. bacon, 57 eggs, 71 tins tomatoes, 28 st. herring, 82 lbs. rabbit, 23 jars jam, 104 bags cauliflowers, 80 dozen

fishcakes, 113½ lbs. cheese, 1 cwt. potatoes, 2 jars paste, 18 tins paste, 20 jars piccalilli, 56 lbs. rice, 64 stone fish, 42 ginger beer powders, 2 ton 8 cwt. 77 lbs. cabbages, 33½ lbs. butter, 71 packets cornflakes, 1 cwt. 6 lbs. split peas, 92 tins fish, 2 tins turkey, 1 tin rabbit.

Action taken under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938. During the year 1943 the following samples were sent to the Public Analyst for analysis :—

Milk	...	...	...	...	48
Custard Powder	...	...	...	...	1
Sauce	...	...	...	...	1
Egg Substitute Powder	...	...	...	...	5
Soup Powder	...	...	...	...	1
Blanc Mange Powder	...	...	...	...	1
Sausage Meat	...	...	...	...	1
Pepper	...	...	...	...	1
Baking Powder	...	...	...	...	1
Ginger Bun Powder	...	...	...	...	1
Almond Flavouring	...	...	...	...	1
Gelatine	...	...	...	...	1
Ginger Biscuit Mixture	...	...	...	...	1
Ground Almond Substitute	...	...	...	...	1
Strawberry Mixture	...	...	...	...	1
Dried Mint	...	...	...	...	1
Castor Oil	...	...	...	...	1
Coffee	...	...	...	...	1
Total ...					<hr/> 69 <hr/>

Four samples of milk all from the same source, were certified to be deficient in fat content. The first sample taken from a retailer, was deficient in fat to the extent of 8.4%. As a result, a further sample was taken and this had a fat deficiency of 15%. Three further samples were then taken, one from the wholesaler and two from the producer in the course of delivery to the retailer. Two of these samples were deficient in fat, one to the extent of 5% and the other 3.4%. One of the samples taken from the producer had a fat content of 4.2%. It was assumed that the fat deficiency was the result of improper mixing of the milk at the farm, and as this is outside the Borough, the circumstances were reported to the County Council for appropriate action.

The only other sample taken during the year which was not up to standard was a sample of Egg Substitute Powder. The Public Analyst reported that this was deficient in carbon dioxide and was of no value as an egg substitute powder. This powder was subsequently withdrawn from sale by the manufacturers.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of notifications of infectious disease received during the year, compared with similar figures for the year 1942 :—

	1943	1942
Scarlet Fever	157	80
Diphtheria	168	164
Typhoid Fever	5	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	9	13
Pneumonia	96	97
Cerebro Spinal Fever	11	21
Erysipelas	20	20
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	2
Whooping Cough	235	96
Measles	1,452	193
Dysentery	1	1
Poliomyelitis	—	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	2
	2,159	691

It will be observed that the large increase in the total for 1943 is almost entirely due to the increase in the number of notifications of measles and whooping cough. The former disease reached epidemic proportions during the months of February and March, 163 cases being notified in the week ended March 27th, after which the number dropped sharply.

Cases of measles, whooping cough, epidemic diarrhoea, ophthalmia neonatorum, puerperal pyrexia, pneumonia and erysipelas, are visited by nurses from the District Nursing Association under agreement with the Corporation, and if necessary nursing assistance is provided.

Scarlet Fever. Cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year were almost double the number notified in 1942, but again, for the sixth year, no death was registered as being due to this disease. The case-rate per 1,000 of population was 2.44, which was lower than the rate for England and Wales at 3.01.

Diphtheria. Although 168 notifications of this disease were received during the year, the diagnosis was confirmed in only 71 cases.

The case rate for this amended figure is 1.10 per 1,000 of population, which compares with a rate of 1.12 for the 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns. The number of deaths from the disease was 7. In no case had the patient been immunised.

Immunisation against Diphtheria. The immunisation of pre-school and school children in the Borough was continued during the year.

A weekly immunisation clinic was held throughout the year and in addition facilities for immunisation were provided at four Child Welfare Centres. These additional clinics were introduced by a press and poster advertising campaign initiated by The Ministry of Health. Good results attended these efforts and a total of 1,202 children were immunised during the year. The following are the details of the treatments carried out :—

		CHILDREN IMMUNISED		
		Pre-School	School	Total
January to June	...	263	214	477
July to December	...	443	282	725
Total		706	496	1,202

At the end of the year the number and percentage of children immunised in the Borough were as follows :—

		Age 0—4	Age 5—14	Total
Number	...	3,152	8,792	11,944
Percentage	...	54.78	76.31	69.14

These percentages are worked on figures supplied by the Registrar General for the purpose.

During the year 26 children who had been immunised contracted the disease. No deaths occurred among the patients who had been immunised, the disease being almost invariably mild.

Erysipelas. It is satisfactory to note that during the past three years the number of cases of erysipelas notified has been consistently low at 20, 20 and 19 respectively. These figures represent a reduction of 50% in the rate on those obtained in 1940 and 1939.

Scabies. Apart from a few isolated cases, the only scabies brought to the notice of the department during the year were among children. Treatment of these cases was successfully carried out at the School Clinic and at First Aid Posts. Adult contacts were also treated whenever possible.

Head Lice. The percentage of school children found to be infested with head lice was slightly higher at 5.5% than for the years 1942 and 1941, when the percentages were 4.8% and 5.4% respectively. The homes of school children found to be infested are visited by Health Visitors if there are pre-school children, and advice as to treatment is given.

Influenza Epidemic, December, 1943. An emergency Home Help Scheme was organised for patients suffering from influenza and credit is due to Civil Defence personnel and other volunteers who rendered yeoman service. Meals were also delivered to households where the mother was incapacitated, from the British Restaurants, and much absenteeism from war work was thus avoided.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The number of cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital during the year was 518, compared with 542 for the year 1942.

The following table shows the number of admissions to the hospital from the different areas catered for :—

DISEASE			Stockton Borough	Billingham U.D.C.	Stockton R.D.C.	Services	TOTAL
Diphtheria	...	...	171	46	—	23	240
Scarlet Fever	...	...	150	48	2	5	205
Typhoid Fever	...	...	2	—	—	—	2
Paratyphoid B.	...	...	6	—	—	—	6
Dysentery	...	...	1	5	—	3	9
Mumps	...	...	1	—	—	1	2
Measles	...	...	10	—	—	5	15
Whooping Cough	...	...	2	—	—	—	2
Rubella	...	...	2	—	—	3	5
Vincent's Angina	...	...	1	—	—	—	1
Cellulitis of Arm	...	...	1	—	—	—	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	...	12	2	—	1	15
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	3	—	—	—	3
Influenza	...	...	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	...	...	2	—	—	—	2
Enuresis	...	...	1	—	—	—	1
Scabies	...	...	4	—	—	—	4
Impetigo	...	...	1	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	...	...	2	—	—	—	2
Chicken Pox	...	...	—	—	—	1	1
Totals	...	...	373	101	2	42	518

The following deaths occurred in the hospital during the year :—

Broncho-Pneumonia and Measles	...	...	2
Faucial Diphtheria	...	...	6
Laryngeal Diphtheria	...	...	1
Broncho-Pneumonia	...	...	1
Broncho-Pneumonia and Enteritis	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever and Burns	...	...	1
Total			12

Preliminary and Final Fevers Training School. A pass list of 87 per cent. for the Preliminary Examination and 100 per cent. in the Final Fevers Examination was recorded during the year under review.

Rushcliffe Report. During the year, the Council adopted the recommendations made in the three sections of this Report in regard to its Hospital and Public Health Nursing Staff.

Bacteriological Laboratory. Full use was made during the year of the bacteriological laboratory set up at the Isolation Hospital for the examination of diphtheria swabs. The following swabs were examined during the year :—

Throat Swabs	...	799	Positive	...	67	Negative	...	732	
Nasal	„	...	680	„	...	10	„	...	670
Aural	„	...	17	„	...	3	„	...	14
		<hr/>				<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total		...	1496			80			1416
		<hr/>				<hr/>		<hr/>	

In addition to the above, the following bacteriological work was carried out on specimens taken from patients in the hospital by the Public Health Laboratory, King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne :—

Cerebro Spinal Fluid	5				
Dysentery (faeces)	34	Positive ...	12	Negative ...	22
Enteric (faeces) ...	51	„ ...	35	„ ...	16
Enteric (blood) ...	3				
Enteric (bile) ...	2				
Pus (puerperal) ...	1				
	<hr/>				
Total ...	96				

Facilities are provided by the Durham County Council for swabs from suspected diphtheria cases and sputum from suspected tuberculosis cases, taken by medical practitioners in the area, to be examined at the Public Health Laboratory, King's College, Newcastle, free of charge. In the case of diphtheria swabs, doctors now almost invariably send them to the Isolation Hospital for examination.

During the year, 1943, the following reports were received :—

Diphtheria	...	...	11	Positive	...	2	Negative	...	9
Tuberculosis	...	291	„	...	30	„	...	261	

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the number of cases of Tuberculosis on the register at the end of 1942, the number of additions and removals during 1943, and the number remaining on the register at the end of the year :—

		Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
No. of cases on		M	F	Tl.	M	F	Tl.
Register 31/12/42	...	377	256	633	305	265	570
Added during 1943	...	34	37	71	8	18	26
Removed during 1943	...	36	40	76	23	30	53
Remaining 31/12/43	...	375	253	628	290	253	543

The total of both types of Tuberculosis on the Register at the end of the year was 1171, a reduction of 32 on the figure at the commencement of the year. The number of new cases notified during the year showed an increase of 5, the pulmonary figure being the same as last year. 58 more cases were removed from the register in 1943 than during the previous year.

The reason for removal of these cases was as follows :—

	Pulmonary	Non Pulmonary	Total
Death	48	4	52
Recovered	17	40	57
Removed	10	6	16
Not T.B.	1	3	4
Total	76	53	129

The Registrar General gives the number of deaths from the disease as 53 Pulmonary and 8 Non Pulmonary compared with 36 and 8 the corresponding figure for 1942.

The death rate for tuberculosis is 0.94 per 1,000 of population. This is considerably higher than the rate for 1942 when it was 0.68 but is lower than the rate of 1.03 recorded in 1941. The average rates for the two quinquennial periods 1936—1940 and 1931—1935 were 0.77 and 0.94 respectively.

The mortality from this disease has shown an upward trend, except for the low rate during 1942, since 1938.

CANCER.

102 deaths were registered as being due to this disease during the year, compared with 93 during the previous year. The mortality rate from the disease at 1.58 per 1,000 of population is the highest ever registered in the Borough.

The sex distribution of the cases and the site affected, is shown in the following table :—

Site	Males	Females	Total
Buccal Cavity and oesophagus	9	—	9
Uterus	—	2	2
Stomach and Duodenum ...	12	8	20
Breast	—	8	8
Other sites	40	23	63
Totals	61	41	102

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The number of births notified in the Borough during the year was 1,317—1,277 live births and 40 still births—compared with 1,267—1,232 and 35 respectively for the year 1942.

Child Welfare Centres. Modifications in the Child Welfare and Ante-Natal Centre arrangements were made during the year.

Owing to the comparatively small attendances at the Child Welfare Centre at Eastbourne Hall, it was decided that a Doctor's session be held fortnightly instead of weekly, alternate sessions being conducted by Health Visitors.

An additional weekly session was arranged at the Norton Green Centre to cope with increasing attendances.

The fortnightly Ante-Natal Session at the Robson Maternity Home was re-arranged on a weekly basis, thus providing two ante-natal sessions weekly instead of three each fortnight. These changes took effect in October.

A post-natal Clinic is to operate as soon as the necessary equipment is obtained.

The number of attendances at the Centres during the year was 25,978, an increase of 4,303 on last year's figure.

The average attendance at each of the Centres compared with the corresponding figure for 1942 were as follows :—

			1943	1942
No. 1	...	...	78.04	65.5
No. 2	...	...	75.43	60.6
No. 3	...	...	58.7	50.0
No. 4	...	...	96.8	81.0
No. 5	...	...	83.0	73.1
No. 6	...	...	41.0	42.0
Average for all Centres ...			73.3	62.1

1,016 infants under one year of age attended the Centres for the first time during the year, representing a percentage of 79% of the live births notified.

Toddlers' Clinics. During the year, 39 Toddlers' Clinics were held at which 421 children were examined, 229 primary and 192 repeat. Of these, 107 were referred for dental treatment, 14 to the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic, 19 to the Specialist Eye Clinic, 1 for orthopaedic treatment, 1 for skin treatment and 1 for speech training.

Artificial Sunlight Clinic. An Artificial Sunlight Clinic for the treatment of both school and pre-school children was initiated during the year, the first session being held in December.

Ante-Natal Centres. There are two ante-natal centres in the Borough, one weekly session being held at each. 385 expectant mothers attended these centres during the year, making a total of 1,256 attendances. This figure represents an attendance equal to 29% of the total births notified.

The average attendances per session at the two Ante-Natal Centres during the year were as follows :—

			1943	1942
No. 1	...	...	19.10	21.0
No. 2	...	...	10.93	13.6
Average for two centres ...			15.90	18.5

Expectant mothers found to be suffering from dental caries were referred to the School Dentists for treatment under an arrangement made with the Education Committee.

Expectant mothers were referred to The Stockton and Thornaby Hospital for X Ray when necessary.

Several cases of Albuminuria and other conditions were referred to their own doctors for treatment.

Home Visiting. For the first five months of the year there were two vacancies on the staff of five Health Visitors. This shortage of staff is reflected in the number of home visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year, 7,446 against 11,256 for the year 1942. 1,236 of these were first visits to infants and 108 first visits to expectant mothers. A considerable proportion of the time of Health Visitors must of necessity be devoted to Centre Work, and the increasing attendances at the Centres renders it difficult, with the present staff, to carry out the home visiting which is such an essential feature of the work of a Health Visitor.

SUPERVISION OF MIDWIVES.

At the end of the year there were fifteen midwives practising in the Borough. This figure is made up as follows :—

Municipal Domiciliary Midwives	...	...	8
Domiciliary Midwives in private practice	...	...	2
Midwives in Institutions :—			
Robson Maternity Home	...	...	4
Private Nursing Home	...	...	1

During the year 1943, these midwives attended 1,254 confinements—798 in the patient's own homes and 456 in institutions (368 of these confinements took place in The Robson Maternity Home). 1,031 of the total births attended were conducted by midwives, while in 223 cases the midwife acted as maternity nurse. Medical aid was summoned by midwives in emergency for 277 cases—199 domiciliary and 78 in institutions. This represents 26.8% of the cases attended as midwives.

Municipal Midwives. 683 cases were attended by the eight domiciliary midwives employed by the Corporation, an average of 85 cases per midwife. In 571 of these cases the midwives acted as midwives and in 112 cases as maternity nurses. 529 of the cases were normal deliveries and 102 instrumental. 52 cases were abortions.

857
mid

ROBSON MATERNITY HOME.

The accommodation provided at the Robson Maternity Home—15 beds—was again taxed to the limit of its capacity during 1943, 368 cases being admitted during the year, the percentage of beds occupied being 85%, which is a high figure for a maternity home.

The average duration of stay of cases in the Home was 12.7 days. 317 cases were attended by the midwives on the staff and 51 were attended by doctors. Medical aid was sought by the midwives in 78 cases.

There was one maternal death in the Home during the year, the cause of death being "Post operative shock following difficult delivery." There were 13 stillbirths and nine deaths of infants within 10 days of birth, during the year. One case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified from the Home, but there were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum or Pemphigus.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

87 deaths of infants under twelve months were registered during the year, giving an infantile mortality rate of 67 per 1,000 live births, compared with 65, the rate for 1942. 67

28 of these deaths occurred at ages under one week and 12 at ages between one week and one month. The neo-natal death-rate for the year was 31.27 per 1,000 births, compared with 25, 38 and 47, the rates for the preceding three years.

A table showing the causes of death is given in the Appendix to this report.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Five maternal deaths occurred during the year, one from Puerperal Sepsis and four from other Puerperal causes. up

The maternal mortality rate is 3.78 per 1,000 total births, compared with 2.29 the rate for England and Wales.

Four of the deaths registered occurred in institutions.

WAR TIME NURSERIES.

The three War-time Nurseries continued to function satisfactorily during the year. The Ragworth Hall Nursery is now operating on a 24 hourly basis and a fourth Day Nursery, for 60 children will shortly be opened.

TOWN AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The following table shows the calls received during the year :—

Number of calls	...	...	...	...	2,011
Number of patients	...	...	...	...	2,001
Number of private removals	...	...	...	...	1,603
Number of street accidents	...	...	...	...	229
Number of Works accidents	...	...	...	...	231
Number of home accidents	...	...	...	...	49
Ambulance not required	...	...	...	...	23
Stockton Racecourse	...	...	...	...	10
Number of fatal accidents	...	...	...	...	34
Fees collected by Borough Treasurer's					
Department	...	...	...	...	£309 15s 6d
Fees collected by personnel	...	...	...	...	£451 13s 0d

The Depot Superintendent and the men from the Depots have worked well together and on many occasions have stayed on after their 12 hour shift in order that the vehicles should be adequately manned. The re-organisation of the Civil Defence Services which resulted in a cut in the personnel greatly affected the available staff, but an extra effort was made by all concerned and the high standard which had already been set was maintained.

Health Education. In May, 1943, a Health Week and Exhibition was held which achieved a good measure of success. The Exhibition was well attended as were the public lectures on Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease. A Brains Trust on Health proved very popular. Film shows and lectures were also given in factories and to children in schools and to Youth Organisations. Cookery demonstrations and lectures were also given and the programme included an Open Air Display of Physical Fitness.

Arrangements are now being made for an advanced course of lectures to be given to selected teachers from all Stockton schools with a view to the planned inclusion of Health Education as an integral part of the school curriculum.

APPENDIX.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates and Analysis of Mortality in the year 1943.

Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns inc. London	148 Smaller Towns Pop. 25000—50000 1931 Census	London Adm. County	Stockton on Tees
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:—					
Live Births	16.5	18.6	19.4	15.8	19.90
Stillbirths	0.51	0.63	0.61	0.45	0.63
Deaths:—					
All causes	12.1	14.2	12.7	15.0	13.49
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.09
Diphtheria	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.11
Influenza	0.37	0.36	0.37	0.27	0.46
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.11
Rates per 1,000 Live Births:—					
Deaths under 1 year of age	49	58	46	58	67
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years	5.3	7.9	4.4	10.4	7.0
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):—					
Maternal Mortality—					
Puerperal Infection	0.73				0.75
Others	1.56				3.03
Total	2.29		Not available		3.78

CAUSES OF DEATH IN STOCKTON-ON-TEES, 1943.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Total	Males	Females
ALL CAUSES	866	488	378
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	6	2	4
5. Diphtheria	7	4	3
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	53	28	25
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	8	1	7
8. Syphilitic diseases	9	9	0
9. Influenza	30	16	14
10. Measles	7	3	4
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	1	—	1
12. Acute infective encephalitis	—	—	—
13. Cancer of buccal cavity & œsophagus (Males)	9	9	—
do. Uterus (Females)	2	—	2
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	20	12	8
15. Cancer of the breast	8	—	8
16. Cancer of all other sites	63	40	23
17. Diabetes	8	4	4
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	71	38	33
19. Heart disease	174	96	78
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	15	6	9
21. Bronchitis	57	29	28
22. Pneumonia	54	34	20
23. Other respiratory diseases	11	7	4
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	8	6	2
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	9	3	6
26. Appendicitis	2	1	1
27. Other digestive diseases	27	20	7
28. Nephritis	16	9	7
29. Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	1	—	1
30. Other maternal causes	4	—	4
31. Premature Births	23	15	8
32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries infant diseases	20	10	10
33. Suicide	7	7	0
34. Road Traffic Accidents	11	6	5
35. Other violent causes	30	21	9
36. All other causes	95	52	43

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1943.

Causes of Death	Total under 1 week	Total under 1 Month	Total under 12 Months
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	1
Measles ... ..	...	.	1
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	5
Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis ... ..	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	...	..	...
Convulsions	1	3	5
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	...	...	18
Gastro Enteritis ... ..	...	2	10
Atelectasis	4	4	4
Congenital Malformations ... ..	...	2	2
Premature Birth... ..	17	22	24
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ... ..	...	...	2
Inanition	1	1	2
Violence ... ..	...	...	2
Inattention at Birth	1	1	1
Other Causes	4	5	10
Totals	28	40	87

